

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5           1.    A method for restricting the installation of a software product, the method comprising the steps of:  
              generating an installer identifier;  
              comparing the generated installer identifier to a stored installer identifier;  
10           storing a license file in response to a match between the generated installer identifier and the stored installer identifier; and  
              enabling a complete installation of the software product, in response to a match between the generated installer identifier and stored installer identifier;  
15           whereby the license file can be subsequently accessed to enable the execution of the completely installed software product.
2.    A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.
- 20           3.    The method of Claim 1, wherein the generated installer identifier represents a characteristic of the software product.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the generated installer identifier represents a characteristic of a software product media on which the software product is stored.

5 5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the generated installer identifier represents a characteristic of a file list corresponding to the software product media.

10 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the generated installer identifier is a hash value representing the characteristic of the file list corresponding to the software product media.

15 7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a software product key.

20 8. The method of Claim 7, further comprising the step of installing at least one run-time file associated with the software product, in response to a determination that the received software product key is a correct software product key.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of executing a set-up program.

25 10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the license file is stored in a hardware signature file.

11. A method for restricting the installation and execution of a software product, the method comprising the steps of:

generating an installer identifier;

5 comparing the generated installer identifier to a stored installer identifier;

storing a license file in response to a match between the generated installer identifier and the stored installer identifier;

10 enabling a complete installation of the software product, in response to a match between the generated installer identifier and stored installer identifier; and

enabling the execution of the software product, in response to a determination that a proper license file has been stored.

12. A computer readable medium having stored thereon  
15 computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 11.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein the generated installer identifier represents a characteristic of the software product.

20 14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the generated installer identifier represents a characteristic of a software product media on which the software product is stored.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the generated installer identifier represents a characteristic of a file list corresponding to the software product media.

5           16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the generated installer identifier is a hash value representing the characteristic of the file list corresponding to the software product media.

10           17. The method of Claim 11, further comprising the step of receiving a software product key.

15           18. The method of Claim 17, further comprising the step of installing at least one run-time file associated with the software product, in response to a determination that the received software product key is a correct software product key.

19. The method of Claim 11, wherein the determination that the proper license file has been stored comprises determining that the stored license file matches a second license in a hardware signature file.

20. A system for restricting the installation of a software product, comprising:

at least one run-time file for executing the software product;

and

5 a set-up program operative to generate an installer identifier representing a characteristic of a software product media containing the software product and further operative to compare the generated installer identifier to a stored installer identifier;

10 wherein the set-up program will enable the installation of the at least one run-time file in response to a determination that the generated installer identifier matches the stored installer identifier.